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'Ham' Radios Tuned to War

Aid in Civilian Defense

Many Milwaukee amateur radio sets silenced by the war are being rebuilt into two way sending and receiving sets for use in civilian defense, it was revealed by Norman Barnes, deputy radio aide of the war emergency radio service committee of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' club, at the July meeting of the Milwaukee county council of civilian defense Wednesday afternoon.

To give the county adequate radio communication service in the event that bombing, sabotage or other local disaster should disrupt local radio stations or telephone service, the amateurs are building 19 units for warning centers and 10 mobile units. The sets are being offered to the county without charge for time, services or materials.

The stationary sets, all tied in on the same wave length, are designed to be heard only within a radius of 15 miles each. Five sets are now complete, 11 will be done within two or three weeks and three more will be built.

Generators from a 1928 Dodge and 1930 Ford and a gasoline engine from a washing machine were put together in the power unit of the model displayed at the meeting. Barnes told how the members had to search for used parts, as none of the needed parts could be purchased in shops.

Milwaukee provides all police radio service for the county, so municipalities other than Milwaukee were asked by Police Chief Joseph Kluchesky to sign agreements so that Milwaukee may apply to the FCC for the license to operate the emergency auxiliary radio sets.

Short wave radios are being built for county civilian defense use from donated parts by members of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' club. Member Norman Barnes inspects one powered by a 1928 Dodge car generator, a smaller 1930 Ford generator and a washing machine's gasoline engine. —Journal Staff